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THE KABUL TIMES

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Islamic Emirate Aims to Transform Country into Export-Oriented Economy, Hanafi Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Abdul Salam Hanafi, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs, said that the Islamic Emirate is working to transform the country from an import-dependent economy into an export-oriented one by supporting domestic industries and encouraging investment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Fifth National and International Industry and Mining Week Exhibition, Hanafi said the display of locally manufactured products reflected the country's growing industrial capacity despite decades of conflict that had weakened its economy, according to a statement from Arg on Wednesday.

He said the government has introduced around 25 incentives for industrialists, including the allocation of industrial land, tax exemptions, and other facilities aimed at promoting investment and production.

Hanafi also called on domestic and foreign investors to take advantage of opportunities in the mining sector and other areas of the economy. **The Kabul Times**

Ministerial Committee Approves Construction of Six-Story Commercial Market in Kabul

KABUL: The meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee was held on Wednesday at Marmarin Palace, approving a private-sector proposal to construct a six-story commercial market in the first district of Kabul city.

Under the proposal, the private sector will invest118 million Afghanis to build the six-story commercial complex, which will be equipped with all the necessary facilities to support business and commercial activities, the office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs said in a statement.

The committee also discussed proposals to construct commercial markets in Kabul's District Five and in Mazar-i-Sharif, the capital of Balkh Province, the statement said.

Those projects were referred to the relevant ministries for further technical review before being resubmitted to the Inter-Ministerial Investment Committee for final consideration, the statement added. **The Kabul Times**

Afghanistan Will Respond to Any Enemy Aggression, Farahi Says

KABUL: Mawlavi Mohajer Farahi, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for Publications Affairs, said that the Islamic Emirate will not leave any hostile aggression unanswered, according to RTA on Wednesday.

Speaking during a one-day seminar for journalists in Kapisa Province, Farahi stressed the importance of defending Islamic values, national interests, and Afghan culture, while reaffirming the government's commitment to responding to external threats.

Farahi also underscored the vital role of the media in promoting national awareness and preserving unity, calling on journalists to uphold the principles of responsible journalism by reporting accurately, impartially, and professionally.

He urged media professionals to prioritize national interests, verify information before publication, and avoid the spread of misinformation that could undermine public trust or social stability.

The deputy minister described journalists as playing a key role in informing society and said ethical, responsible, and fact-based reporting is essential to strengthening public confidence, supporting national cohesion, and contributing to the country's long-term peace and development. **The Kabul Times**

Iran Seeking Trade Expansion with Afghanistan, Ambassador

KABUL: The Iranian Ambassador to Kabul, Alireza Bikdeli, said that his country is seeking to further strengthen trade and economic relations with Afghanistan.

Addressing the Fifth International Industry and Mining Week Exhibition in Kabul, Bikdeli said expanding transit routes between the two neighboring countries has contributed to stronger economic cooperation and increased commercial exchanges.

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Shaikh Haqqani Urges Media to Promote Unity, Religious Values

KABUL: Shaikh Sher Ahmad Haqqani, Minister of Information and Culture, called on Afghan media to prioritize religious values, strengthen national unity, and avoid content that promotes division.

Speaking at a one-day capacity-building seminar for journalists in Kapisa Province, Haqqani urged media organizations to prevent the spread of immoral content, report facts truthfully, and counter what he described as enemy propaganda, according to RTA on Wednesday.

Referring to recent Pakistani airstrikes, Haqqani said Afghans would not be intimidated by bombings or military pressure, adding that targeting civilians could never be considered a sign of victory.

He said the nation had previously overcome adversaries with more advanced military capabilities and would continue to defend its sovereignty and values.

The Kabul Times

Russia Urges Kabul, Islamabad to Resolve Tensions Through Dialogue

MOSCOW: Russia has called on Afghanistan and Pakistan to resolve their recent tensions through political dialogue and diplomatic engagement, urging both sides to avoid further escalation.

In a statement the other day, the Russian Foreign Ministry described Pakistan's recent airstrikes in southeastern and eastern Afghanistan as regrettable and stressed the importance of ending armed confrontations between Kabul and Islamabad.

Moscow urged both countries to address their differences through diplomatic channels.

The statement came after the Ministry of Defense announced that Afghan forces had carried out retaliatory precision airstrikes against Daesh-linked positions in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

The Kabul Times

Afghan Air Force Conducts Retaliatory Strikes on Militants Targets in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provinces, Ministry

KABUL: The country's Ministry of National Defense said in a statement on Wednesday that the Afghan Air Force has carried out retaliatory airstrikes against positions linked to the Islamic State (Daesh) and other groups opposed to the government in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. According to the statement, preliminary information indicates that the strikes inflicted heavy casual-

See P4

Afghan, Kyrgyz Officials Discuss Trade, Transit Cooperation

BISHKEK: Mawlavi Abdul Shakoor Haqqani, the Ambasador of the Islamic Emirate to Bishkek, in a meeting with Mirbek Bakytovich, Fourth Deputy Director of the Political Department at Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussed expanding bilateral cooperation.

The Afghan Embassy in Bishkek said in a statement on Wednesday, the two sides emphasized strengthening political, economic, cultural, trade, and transit relations.

Haqqani also called for easier visa procedures for Afghan traders and freight drivers, while the Kyrgyz official expressed confidence in further expanding bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade, economic, and humanitarian fields.

The Kabul Times

Islamic Emirate Accelerating Economic Self-Reliance Efforts, Official

KABUL: Mawlavi Ahmadullah Zahid, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce, said that the Islamic Emirate has accelerated its efforts to strengthen economic stability and achieve self-reliance by supporting domestic production and reducing dependence on imports.

Speaking at the Fifth International Industry and Mining Week Exhibition, Zahid said the government has taken significant steps to boost local production, expand industrial capacity, and create a stronger foundation for long-term economic growth, according to a statement from the ministry on Wednesday.

He identified energy shortages as one of the biggest obstacles to economic development but said the signing of multiple agreements in the energy sector is expected to substantially resolve the challenge within the next two years.

Zahid also expressed confidence that, given its strategic geographic location, the country has the potential to become a key bridge for economic and trade relations between Central Asia and South Asia, strengthening regional connectivity and expanding commercial opportunities.

The Kabul Times

Book on Jihadi Leader Mawlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi Unveiled, Ministry

KABUL: The Directorate of Public Libraries of the Ministry of Information and Culture has unveiled a new book titled (The Imam of Jihad and Politics), authored by Abdul Matin Atifi, during a ceremony held at the Queen's Palace in Bagh-e Babur.

The book documents the life, revolutionary speeches, poetry, and memoirs of the late Mawlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, a prominent jihadi figure and founder of Harakat-e Inqilab-e Islami Afghanistan, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement on Wednesday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Culture and Arts Mawlavi Atiqullah Azizi emphasized the importance of documenting and publishing the biographies and achievements of religious scholars and mujahideen, describing such works as an essential means of preserving the country's historical, intellectual, and cultural heritage. Azizi called on scholars, researchers, and writers to document the memories, educational contributions, sacrifices, and public service of Islamic scholars so that future generations can better understand the nation's history and benefit from their legacy. **The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's Generation Guarantees Our Bright Future

Qatar's Role in Expanding Afghanistan's Global Engagement

The recent meeting between the Islamic Emirate's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and Qatar's ambassador Mirdef Alqashouti underscores a vital truth. Afghanistan seeks stronger ties with the international community, and Qatar remains a key partner in this endeavor. While Pakistan's repeated attacks on Afghan territory cast a shadow over regional stability, Doha's emphasis on mediation and constructive engagement offers a pathway toward dialogue and cooperation.

Qatar's ambassador described his country's relations with Afghanistan as "historic and deep," reaffirming Doha's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's integration into the global community. This approach aligns with Qatar's broader foreign policy, which has long relied on mediation and bridge-building between conflicting parties. For Afghanistan, such support is not only welcome but essential. The Islamic Emirate has consistently reiterated its adherence to the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other nations, while firmly rejecting external meddling in its own internal matters. By upholding this principle, Afghanistan demonstrates its desire to be a responsible member of the international system.

The two sides discussed regional issues of mutual interest alongside bilateral relations. This reflects Afghanistan's broader vision in strengthening ties not only with distant partners but especially with its neighbors. In a region often marred by mistrust and conflict, Afghanistan's call for constructive engagement is a reminder that peace and progress can only be achieved through cooperation, not confrontation.

Analysts have noted that Pakistan's continued attacks leave Afghanistan with limited options. Third-party intervention is the only viable solution, and Qatar is well-positioned to play this role. Indeed, Qatar's credibility as a mediator is rooted in its ability to maintain dialogue even in the most difficult circumstances.

Afghanistan's leadership has expressed appreciation for Qatar's constructive role, recognizing that such partnerships are crucial for building trust and expanding international relations. At a time when Afghanistan is striving for progress and development, the support of countries like Qatar can help bridge the gap between Kabul and the wider global community. The Islamic Emirate's commitment to non-interference, coupled with its desire for strong relations with neighbors and beyond, signals a clear intention. Afghanistan wants peace, stability, and prosperity, not isolation or conflict.

However, the way forward will not be easy as regional tensions remain high, and Pakistan's military regime's actions continue to undermine trust. Yet the Islamic Emirate's consistent message that it seeks cooperation, respects sovereignty, and aspires to progress, deserves recognition. Qatar's engagement provides a valuable opportunity to amplify this message and to ensure that Afghanistan's voice is heard on the international stage. For Afghanistan, the future lies not in confrontation but in constructive partnerships, and Qatar's role in this journey cannot be overstated.

Pak Military Regime's Airstrikes Shatter Civilian Lives in Paktia

By: Sayed Sharif

The recent tragedy in Paktia Province, specifically in the Mandakhail area of Samkanai District, has once again exposed the devastating consequences of Pakistan's airstrikes against Afghan civilians. On Monday evening, a residential home was bombed, resulting in the deaths of 28 civilians and injuries to 158 others. This attack has not only taken innocent lives but has also spread fear and anxiety throughout the community, forcing families to abandon their homes at night in search of safety.

Ghazni Gul, a resident of Samkanai, described the situation with deep sorrow: "Since the attack, we have been living in constant fear. Most people, especially women and children, have left the village because we are too afraid to spend the night in our homes." His words reflect the psychological devastation inflicted on the community, beyond the physical destruction.

Ajmal Taskin added: "People have had enough of these attacks because civilians are being killed in these bombings for no reason. If this situation continues, people will be forced to take action." This statement highlights the growing frustration and desperation among residents who feel abandoned and unprotected.

Local voices are united in their demand for urgent action. Residents insist that they no longer feel safe in their homes and call for every possible measure to prevent such attacks from happening again. They have appealed to the international community and human rights organizations to take effective steps to protect civilians.

Waris, another resident, expressed his outrage: "Why are such bombings and acts of cruelty repeated again and again in Afghanistan? The international community must take this issue very seriously because human rights are being violated and even people's right to life is being taken away. There is no greater injustice than this. Pressure must be put on Pakistan to stop violating human rights."

Similarly, Siar Gul Samkanai emphasized: "Many people are living in fear. We do not want such attacks to be repeated in Afghanistan."

These airstrikes, which have caused only civilian casualties, represent a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Targeting women, children, and defenseless families cannot be justified under any circumstances. Such actions are not only cruel but also undermine the principles of human dignity and justice.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has declared that it will firmly defend its citizens and the country against such aggression. Officials have stressed that the security of the Afghan people is a red line, and they will not allow foreign powers to shed the blood of innocents without consequence. This firm stance demonstrates Afghanistan's commitment to protecting its sovereignty and ensuring that the sacrifices of its people are not ignored.

The bombing in Mandakhail is a stark reminder of the urgent need for accountability. The international community must move beyond words and take practical measures to stop these violations. Human rights organizations should document and condemn these atrocities, while global powers must exert pressure on Pakistan to cease its unlawful actions.

Afghanistan has endured decades of war, but the deliberate targeting of civilians is See P4

Increasing Hopes among Afghans: Afghanistan's Economic Growth Continuing

By: Mashal Noori

The World Bank in its recent report has said that Afghanistan's economy is continuing to recover. The World Bank's Afghanistan Economic Monitor, released this Monday, says modest economic growth has been supported by stronger domestic demand, relatively stable prices and improved government revenue collection.
According to the report, inflation is easing, the national currency has strengthened and public revenues remain resilient, but exports, imports and investment have a bit weakened as border closures with Pakistan and instability in the Middle East continue to disrupt trade.
The report further said that inflation slowed to 8 percent, down from 8.6 percent in April, adding that food prices fell by 2.1 percent during the month, led by a 15.4 percent decline in vegetable prices, while prices for oils, fats and meat also dropped.
The World Bank report also says that the Afghan currency continued to appreciate in May, strengthening to 63.9 afghanis per US dollar, a gain of 1.2 percent from the previous month and 8.3 percent compared with a year earlier. The report also hinted to the country's exports and imports level, saying that Afghanistan's exports fell to $79.2 million in May, a decline of 17 percent from April and 14 percent compared with the same month last year – with imports also dropping to approximately $970 million, down 11 percent from April and 16 percent year over year. The World Bank attributed much of the slowdown to the continued closure of key border crossings with Pakistan, as well as conflict and instability across the Middle East, which have disrupted traditional transit routes, increased transportation costs and complicated regional trade.
Food exports totaled $52.8 million, accounting for 67 percent of all exports, up from 62 percent a year earlier. Textile exports, however, grew 48.3 percent compared with last year after exporters increasingly rerouted shipments to China through Central Asia, the report says. The World Bank says that coal exports remained negligible following the closure of Pakistan's border crossings, highlighting Afghanistan's continued dependence on a handful of regional transit routes. India remained Afghanistan's largest export destination, receiving 33.7 percent of exports, followed by Iran with 11.3 percent and China with 10.9 percent. The World Bank reports says while food imports increased 20 percent from a year earlier because of drought-related cereal shortages, imports of machinery, transport equipment See P4

Disaster Management Authority Signs $456,866 Mine Action Agreement

KABUL: The National Disaster Management Authority said in a statement on Wednesday that it has signed a $456,866 cooperation agreement with a mine clearance organization to expand demining activities and raise public awareness about the dangers of explosive remnants of war.
NDMA Director General Mullah Nooruddin Turabi said the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance remains one of the government's highest humanitarian priorities, noting that decades of conflict have left many areas contaminated with explosive hazards that continue to threaten lives, property, and livelihoods.
He stressed that protecting civilians through systematic demining operations and expanding public awareness campaigns, particularly in vulnerable communities, are essential steps toward improving public safety and enabling the safe return and resettlement of affected families.
The statement said the project is expected to contribute to safer communities by reducing the threat posed by explosive remnants of war while supporting broader humanitarian and development efforts in areas impacted by decades of conflict.
The Kabul Times

Preserving the Legacy of Rabia Balkhi: A Forgotten Tomb in Balkh

By: Atiqa Arian

The tombs of pioneers of literature and art are more than mere burial sites; they are monuments of cultural identity, historical continuity, and intellectual pride. They remind us of the voices that shaped our civilization and the creativity that enriched our collective memory. Yet, in Afghanistan today, one of the most important of these monuments, the tomb of Rabia Balkhi, the first known female poet of Persian literature, has fallen into neglect. Her resting place in Balkh province has tragically been reduced to a dumping ground, a stark symbol of disregard for cultural heritage.
This situation demands urgent attention. The Department of Information and Culture of Balkh Province must take responsibility for preserving this site, not only as a matter of respect for Rabi'a Balkhi herself but also as a duty to safeguard Afghanistan's literary and historical treasures. The neglect of her tomb is not simply the decay of a physical structure; it is the erosion of memory, identity, and pride.

The Life and Poetry of Rabia Balkhi
Rabia Balkhi occupies a unique place in the history of Persian literature. Born into a noble family in Balkh, she was educated in poetry and literature at a time when women's voices were rarely acknowledged in public life. Her father, a governor under the Samanid dynasty, ensured that she received the same intellectual training as her brothers. This education allowed her to compose poetry in both Persian and Arabic, making her one of the earliest female poets to leave a lasting mark on the literary tradition.
Her poetry often revolved around themes of love, longing, and human emotion. Unlike the courtly or religious verse common in her era, Rabi'a's poems expressed deeply personal feelings, giving voice to the inner world of a woman in a patriarchal society. This made her work revolutionary, as it challenged the boundaries of gender and tradition. Her verses are remembered for their lyrical beauty and emotional honesty, qualities that continue to inspire readers centuries later.
The story of Rabia Balkhi's life is inseparable from the tragedy of her death. Historical accounts tell us that she fell in love with Baktash, her brother's slave. When her brother discovered the relationship, he reacted with fury, imprisoning her and inflicting fatal wounds. Despite her suffering, Rabia is said to have written her final poems in blood upon the walls of her cell. These verses, composed in the face of death, immortalized her courage and artistic brilliance.
Her death turned her into a symbol of resistance against oppression, and her poetry became a testament to the resilience of women's voices in history. Rabi'a Balkhi's story is not only about love and tragedy but also about the enduring power of art to transcend suffering.
Rabia Balkhi's contribution to Persian literature cannot be overstated. She represents the dawn of Persian poetic expression and the resilience of women in cultural history. Her tomb is not merely a burial site; it is a symbol of Afghanistan's rich literary heritage and the enduring power of art against oppression.
Preserving her resting place is an act of respect not only to her memory but also to the broader tradition of Persian literature that continues to inspire millions across Afghanistan, Iran, Central Asia, and beyond. To neglect her tomb is to neglect the roots of Persian poetry itself.
Reports from Balkh province reveal that Rabi'a Balkhi's tomb has been turned into a dumping ground. What should be a site of reverence has instead become a place of waste and disregard. This neglect reflects a broader crisis in cultural preservation, where historical monuments are left vulnerable to decay, vandalism, and oblivion.
Such negligence is not only a local issue but a national one. Afghanistan's cultural heritage is a vital part of its identity, and the loss of monuments like Rabi'a Balkhi's tomb diminishes the country's historical richness. The preservation of such sites is essential for education, tourism, and national pride.
The Department of Information and Culture of Balkh Province must act decisively to restore and protect Rabia Balkhi's tomb. Restoration efforts should include cleaning the site, repairing the structure, and establishing it as a protected cultural monument. Beyond physical restoration, the site should be promoted as a place of learning and inspiration, where visitors can connect with the legacy of Afghanistan's literary pioneers.
International organizations dedicated to cultural preservation could also be engaged to support these efforts. UNESCO and other cultural bodies have often emphasized the importance of safeguarding heritage sites, and Rabia Balkhi's tomb deserves such recognition. By restoring her resting place, Afghanistan can demonstrate its commitment to honoring its past and preserving its cultural identity for future generations.
The neglected state of Rabi'a Balkhi's tomb is a matter of cultural urgency. Authorities must act to restore and protect this monument, transforming it from neglect into a site of reverence. By doing so, Afghanistan can honor one of its greatest literary figures and reaffirm its commitment to preserving the treasures of its past.
Rabi'a Balkhi's poetry and tragic story continue to resonate across centuries, reminding us of the power of art, the resilience of women, and the importance of cultural memory. Her tomb must not remain a dumping ground; it must be restored as a beacon of heritage, dignity, and inspiration.

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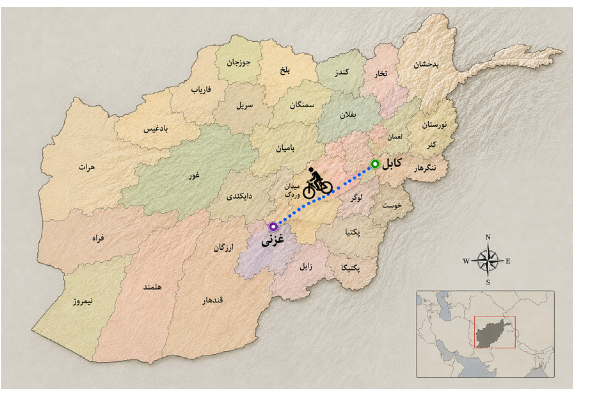
SPORTS

Eleventh Shpageeza Cricket League Kicks Off in Khost

KABUL: The 11th round of the Shpageeza Cricket League officially began on Wednesday at Rahmat Wali Masroor Cricket Stadium in Khost province, bringing together many leading cricketers alongside emerging domestic talent in the country's premier T20 competition.
According to a statement from the Afghanistan Cricket Board, five regional teams, Speen Ghar, Band-e-Amir, Mis Ainak, Amo, and Boost, are competing in this year's tournament, with a total of 21 matches scheduled to be played over the next 14 days.
The opening match featured defending champions Amo against Band-e-Amir, while the remaining fixtures will be played according to the tournament schedule, the statement said.
Under the competition format, each team will face every other side twice during the league stage, with the top two teams advancing to the final, the statement added.
This year's league features several of Afghanistan's biggest cricket stars, including Rashid Khan, and he will captain Speen Ghar; Azmatullah Omarzai leads Amo; Rahmanullah Gurbaz captains Mis Ainak; Ibrahim Zadran heads Boost; and Hashmatullah Shahidi leads Band-e-Amir.
First launched in 2013, the Shpageeza Cricket League has become Afghanistan's most prestigious domestic cricket tournament and an important platform for identifying and developing future national team players.
Speen Ghar remains the competition's most successful team with three titles, while Amo, Mis Ainak, and Kabul have each won the championship twice.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Para-Cyclist Embarks on a Mission of Hope from Kabul to Ghazni



The streets of Kabul witnessed the start of a remarkable journey that is about much more than just distance. Mudassar Mohammadi, a dedicated Afghan para-cyclist, set off from the National Paralympic Committee headquarters on a grueling 296-kilometer ride toward the province of Ghazni. His goal? To set a new national record and prove that boundaries only exist in the mind.
But for Mudassar, this mission isn't just about the miles. His journey, which is also slated to take him through the provinces of Kapisa and Khost, serves as a powerful campaign for inclusion. By hitting the open road, he aims to shine a spotlight on the incredible strength and potential of athletes with disabilities. He wants to show every young person in Afghanistan that physical challenges are not obstacles, but rather catalysts for extraordinary achievements.
This initiative is a heartfelt call to the community to embrace a culture of sports and to support the Paralympic movement with pride. As Mudassar pedals across the Afghan landscape, he carries a message of hope and courage, showcasing the untapped talent of Afghan athletes to both national and international audiences. It is a journey driven by heart, intended to inspire a nation to look past disabilities and celebrate the true spirit of human potential.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Volleyball Stars Begin Quest for Regional Glory

In the heart of Kabul, the air is thick with anticipation as Afghanistan's national volleyball team kicks off a high-stakes training camp. Under the bright lights of the National Sports Administration's 2,500-seat gymnasium, 52 of the country's finest athletes have spent the last few days pushing their limits, all with one goal in mind: the 2026 Central Asian Volleyball Cup.
Leading the charge is the Iranian head coach, Mohammad Asadollahi. His approach is both rigorous and meticulous, focusing on refining the team's technical and tactical foundations. From perfecting high-pressure serves and blocks to tightening up defensive maneuvers, every drill is a calculated step toward transforming the squad into a formidable contender.
However, the atmosphere in the gym is as competitive as it is collaborative. While 52 players are currently sweating it out on the court, this camp is a high-pressure audition. Having started on June 26th and set to conclude by July 21st, the selection process will be brutal—only the top 14 players will earn the honor of representing Afghanistan on the international stage.
The road ahead leads to Islamabad, Pakistan, where the tournament will ignite from July 19th to July 29th. It promises to be a massive regional showdown, featuring a diverse lineup of rivals including India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Central Asian powerhouses like Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan. For these Afghan athletes, the next few weeks are about more than just sport; they are about resilience, national pride, and the dream of bringing home a trophy for their fans.
The Kabul Times

Finance Ministry Consults Kabul Wedding Hall Owners on New Revenue System

KABUL: The Ministry of Finance said in a statement on Wednesday that it has held a consultative meeting with the Kabul Wedding Hall Association to discuss the implementation of a new revenue collection system.
During the meeting, Director General of Revenue Mawlavi Safar Mohammad Sahar outlined the objectives of the new system, explaining its benefits for both tax administration and taxpayers as well as the facilities introduced under the reform, the statement said.
The two sides agreed that members of the association would submit their recommendations to help improve the implementation of the new revenue system.
The Kabul Times

Work Begins on 3 Development Projects in Takhar

KABUL: Work has begun on three rural development projects worth 52 million Afghanis in Chah Ab District of Takhar Province, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development said in a statement on Wednesday.
The projects include the construction of two water supply networks and more than 6,100 meters of irrigation canals, the statement said.
Upon completion, the projects are expected to provide safe drinking water to nearly 3,000 families while improving irrigation for approximately 2,500 jeribs of agricultural land, the statement added.
The Kabul Times

Afghan Envoy Joins Anti-Drug Day Ceremony in Tehran

TEHRAN: Mawlavi Fazl Mohammad Haqqani, the country's Ambassador to Iran, participated in a ceremony marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Tehran.
The event was attended by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, and senior Iranian officials, the Afghan Embassy said in a statement on Wednesday.
Participants stressed the

importance of strengthening regional and international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and related transnational crimes, the statement added.
The Kabul Times

Central Bank Reaffirms Support for Microfinance Development

KABUL: First Deputy Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, Sediqullah Khalid, has reaffirmed the central bank's commitment to supporting the development of the country's microfinance sector during a farewell meeting with Stephen Rodriguez, the United Nations Development Programme's representative in Afghanistan.
Khalid praised Rodriguez's efforts to expand access to microfinance services and said the central bank would continue working closely with national and international partners to strengthen the sector, according to a statement from the bank on Wednesday.
Rodriguez expressed hope that cooperation to promote microfinance development in the country would continue in the future.
The Kabul Times

Increasing Hopes among Afghans:...

From P3

and other investment goods declined sharply.
Based on the report, domestic revenue remained relatively stable. The report further said that Afghanistan's macroeconomic situation has improved since the Islamic Emirate's takeover in mid-August 2021, which can increase hopes among the population in the country.
Increasing in consistent customs revenues, easing inflation, and the strengthening of the local Afghan currency are considered as vital for the economic development of the country.
The Islamic Emirate leadership is working to provide all necessary ground for internal and external investment, increase trade with regional countries, launch major and small development projects so that the country's economy further grow and address economic challenges facing the people in the country.

Afghan Air Force Conducts Retaliatory ...

From P1

ties and significant material losses on Daesh militants, the "elements of evil and corruption," and their supporters.
The operation was conducted with high precision against designated targets and did not result in any civilian casualties, the statement said.
The ministry said the strikes were launched in response to Pakistan's recent air attacks and reiterated that Afghanistan's air defense force would target any location used to threaten the country's security.
The Kabul Times

Iran Seeks to Expand Trade, Economic ...

From P1

He noted that Iranian companies had actively participated in the exhibition by showcasing industrial and construction products. The ambassador reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to maintaining and expanding economic cooperation, expressing confidence that bilateral commercial ties would continue to grow. **The Kabul Times**

Pak Military Regime's Airstrikes...

From P2

an unforgivable crime that must be stopped.
The people of Paktia, like all Afghans, deserve to live in peace, free from fear of bombs falling on their homes. The world must recognize that silence in the face of such cruelty is complicity.
In conclusion, the attack on Mandakhail is not just a local tragedy, it is a violation of humanity itself. The cries of the victims and survivors demand justice, and the responsibility lies with both Afghanistan's leadership and the international community to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated.